

# **TSUNAMI PUBLIC AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP REPORT**

**Honolulu, April 15-16, 1998**

The Public Affairs Working Group (PAWG) continues to hold periodic conference calls and stays in contact via email. PAWG is on the distribution list for Steering Group correspondence and regularly monitors progress of the tsunami implementation plan for outreach opportunities both as a group and as individuals. Ann Thomason routinely updates the tsunami website.

PAWG members are supporting April 1998 Awareness Month Activities in five states as follows:

Hawaii	Tsunami Awareness Month
Washington	Disaster Preparedness Month
Oregon	Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month
California	Earthquake Awareness Month
Idaho	Emergency Preparedness Month

## **Hawaii Tsunami Outreach Activities**

Specific Tsunami Awareness Month events include talks at public libraries by tsunami experts; a program at Borders Books locations featuring tsunami poetry readings, oral histories, tsunami poster give-aways, and entertainment; Saturday morning open houses at Pacific Tsunami Warning Center; an essay contest sponsored by the Tsunami Museum; and distribution of tsunami coloring books to students in grades K-4. Tsunami experts appeared on Hawaii KHET public TV on the Dialog Program, a call-in show. Barbara Hendrie was interviewed by the Seattle Associated Press for background on Hawaii's tsunami efforts.

Several months ago, Delores Clark provided background information on tsunamis to Jack Elrod, Artist and Writer of Mark Trail comic strip which features stories on nature. Syndicated by King Features, Inc., Mark Trail is carried in 175 newspapers (unfortunately none in Hawaii or Alaska). Past issues focused on El Nino, hurricanes, marine sanctuaries, and fisheries. The March 29 issue of Mark Trail featured tsunamis. Mr. Elrod autographed copies for framing and presentation to Eddie Bernard, Dick Hagemeyer, PTWC, WC/ATWC, and the Pacific Tsunami Museum. A copy of the March 29 Mark Trail is attached.

## **Washington Tsunami Outreach Activities**

Rob Harper was involved with efforts to promote tsunami warning and evacuation signs in Washington State. In support of Emergency Preparedness Month, Rob and Mike Howard issued a joint press release from FEMA and Washington EMD. Among the activities planned are an April 22 Tsunami Workshop bringing together scientists and community leaders to discuss risk management, a "Train the Trainer" class for emergency responders and public officials a two-day multi-hazards safety program for schools, and a statewide "Drop Cover and Hold" drill. In conjunction with the workshop, reporters from the Associated Press interviewed and photographed Eddie Bernard and others for a story to go out over the weekend of April 25-26.

Mike arranged a FEMA Radio Network interview with Washington EM Director, Linda Burton-Ramsey, to discuss the Washington "Prepare Because You Care" campaign, the Washington State Project Impact-Disaster Resistant Community partnerships, and disaster mitigation.

## **Oregon Tsunami Outreach Activities**

Oregon DOGAMI sponsored a range of educational projects and public awareness activities in addition to Tsunami/Earthquake Awareness Month events. A sampling includes promotion of inundation mapping and the interpretive sign program; the development of educational products such as decals, stickers, tent signs, trivia games, videos and curriculum for K-12; and contributions to National Geographic Magazine for the May 1998 issue on Cascadia earthquake and tsunami hazards. Former PAWG member Shannon Priem (no longer employed at DOGAMI) and Angie Karel were among those contributing to planning and promoting these activities.

Oregon Earthquake/Tsunami Preparedness Month events include a statewide school "Drop Cover and Hold" drill on April 30, coinciding with Washington State. Local communities and schools are encouraged to hold events at the local level. Mike Howard arranged for Oregon EM Director, Myra Thompson Lee, to record interviews on FEMA Radio Network to promote preparedness month activities. A Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Workshop is scheduled for June 1-3, 1998. Speakers will include several of the Federal/State Steering Group members.

## **California Tsunami Outreach Activities**

Tom Mullins was interviewed over FEMA Radio Network regarding Earthquake Awareness Month and safety precautions. Tom's office has been extremely busy supporting recovery efforts related to El Nino impacts--heavy rains and mudslides.

## **Alaska Tsunami Outreach Activities**

A new science reporter at the Anchorage Daily News has expressed interest in visiting the

WC/ATWC for a future article. Ruth Barritt provided background information to the reporter.

## **New Masthead**

A new masthead stationery is now available for press releases issued by PAWG members to promote the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Plan. The masthead was designed by Shannon Priem with input from PAWG members.

## **Future Activities & Potential Press**

- EMWIN earthquake dissemination pilot project in Washington
- upcoming workshops
- inundation/evacuation mapping in California & Alaska
- designing new and/or tailoring (Oregon's) handout materials
- buoy deployment